

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN AF-08

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O 250030Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AFSP, ACOM, ET, US

SUBJECT: POUCH INSPECTION

REF: ADDIS ABABA 10491

1. NEITHER APO MAIL NOR AIR FREIGHT ENJOYS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

2. WE MAINTAIN POSITION THAT WE WILL NOT RPT NOT ACQUIESCE IN OPENING OF USG DIPLOMATIC POUCHES. IN VIEW OF ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND OUR STOPPAGE OF USG POUCHES THERE IS NO NEED TO MAKE THIS POINT UNILATERALLY TO PMG AT THIS TIME.

3. CONSEQUENCES REFERRED TO IN STATE 234280 REFLECT FACT THAT INABILITY OF EMBASSY TO SEND OUT OR RECEIVE POUCHES WILL SOONER OR LATER AFFECT OPERATIONS OF EMBASSY AND OTHER USG COMPONENTS IN ADDIS WITH POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR PMG IN VIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS IN THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY
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ASSISTANCE FIELDS.

4. IN TACTICAL DISCUSSIONS WITHIN CORPS YOU MAY WISH TO
FLOAT IDEA OF ASSURANCES TO PMG THAT POUCHES WILL NOT BE

USED FOR ILLEGAL CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS. YOU MAY ALSO WANT
TO CONSIDER SUCH ASSURANCE TO BE MADE UNILATERALLY ON OUR
PART SHOULD JOINT DIPLOMATIC CORPS NEGOTIATIONS FAIL AND
EACH COUNTRY IS LEFT TO NEGOTIATE FOR ITSELF WITH PMG.

5. IN ABSENCE OF POUCH SERVICE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO
MAXIMIZE USE OF TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS FOR ESSENTIAL
CLASSIFIED MATERIAL THAT WOULD NORMALLY GO BY CLASSIFIED
POUCH. KISSINGER

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